

*Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board*  
*Meeting Summary*  
*January 9, 2006*

**Members Present:** Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, Korey Hartwich, Robert Hicks, Graciela Jaschek, Jon Lourie, Phillip Olivetti, Marilyn Seitz, Debbie Spielberg, Mitch Warren, Eric Hensal, Loyce Grigsby, Kathryn Stevens, Victor Salazar, Jose Vazquez, and Mark Woodard

**Members Absent:** Marilyn Seitz, and Jerry Yokoyama

**Welcome/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order by Debbie Spielberg, Chair. Members of the Board, Staff, and Guests were introduced.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board adopted the minutes of the December 2005 minutes as amended. Remove the word Vice Chair for Debbie Spielberg and replace with Chair and correct spelling of Eric Hensal name.

**Procedural Guidelines**

Debbie Spielberg gave an overview of Procedural Guidelines for Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meeting as follows:

This is to clarify the procedure that we will use at our Board meetings to discuss items and recognize Board members for speaking. The goal of using these guidelines is to ensure an efficient and fair process at our meetings. These procedures are generally based on Robert's Rules of Order.

For each action item that is presented, such as a letter to be sent by the Board, the presenter will be recognized for 5 minutes to explain the letter (or issue).

After the letter/issue has been presented, someone must make a motion (which must then be seconded) to approve the letter/issue.

Once the motion is seconded, discussion and questions begin on the issue.

At this time, other members of the Board – when they are recognized by the Chair -- can ask questions or make statements about the issue. Depending on the remaining time, the Chair may recognize members more than once. The presenter can respond briefly to questions, and if the issue is controversial, will have an additional several minutes to respond. The goal is to allow about 85-90% of the time for Board discussion and 10-15% of the time for a presenter to respond.

The Chair will be responsible for monitoring the time.

After the time is up, the Chair restates the motion and calls for a vote.

**Please note:**

- Any Board member can make a motion to extend the length of debate (for either the presenter or other Board members), which must be seconded and then voted on.
- Anyone can make a motion to “call the question” which ends the discussion and immediately calls for a vote on the issue at hand.
- Procedures can be suspended with a majority vote of the Board.

**Community Comments**

Marcie Stickle commented on helping Silver Spring Independent Small Business to survive, thrive and flourish. (*For details refer to handout*)

Mr. Don Tatum was concerned about the police chase that happened in Silver Spring a couple of weeks ago and the way it was handled he also stated that he felt Police Supervisor should review there procedures .

Debbie Spielberg asked that Mr. Tatum give his contact information to Vicki Lockerman and that the SSRC staff would contact him with the appropriate contact information regarding the issue.

Bob Colvin commented on the following issues:

Local traffic and pedestrian issues where discussed at their December meeting.

They also discussed the proposed Condos at the Dry Cleaning Institutes pose access and traffic issues. The developer will arrange to have the State extend the concrete median on Burlington Avenue to prevent access to or from eastbound Burlington.

**County Executive Report:**

Paul Folkers reported that:

- The General Assembly will kickoff on Wednesday, January 10.
- Emphasizing the importance of Montgomery County’s small business community, County Executive Douglas M. Duncan urges businesses to register for the County’s new Local Small Business Reserve Program (LSBRP). Qualifying and registering for the program can be done online at the LSBRP’s brand new website, [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/LSBRP](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/LSBRP). The Department of Economic Development will be administering the program and will kick-off a public awareness campaign in January. The campaign will include a multi-dimensional ad campaign and networking through partners such as the local Chambers of Commerce. The Department recently hired new staff to oversee the implementation and evaluation of the program.
- For the fourth consecutive year, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has been ranked in the top 10 among the nation’s public libraries serving populations greater than 500,000, according to Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR) 2005. MCPL

ranked ninth this year, just above the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (OH) and just below the Columbus Metropolitan Library (OH).

### **Responses to Questions asked at December Meeting**

#### **Has a decision been made on the toll lanes for the ICC? (Bowser)**

All lanes will be toll lanes at a flat rate per vehicle.

#### **Does the CE have a position on toll lanes to finance transportation projects? (Bowser)**

CE is a proponent of HOV lanes. He is supportive of considering toll lanes if needed to finance large projects that add capacity.

#### **USAI COG survey on Emergency Preparedness (Hensal).**

The survey is in process and COG is reviewing the results. We can share information from the survey once it is made public by COG.

#### **ECC – 911 calls in Spanish. Complaint at Long Branch Town Hall Meeting.**

The County Emergency Communications Center does have some Spanish speaking call takers and uses the AT&T Language Line for translation of emergency calls.

All call takers are trained. Most callers understand a little English to be able to wait for a translator. It may take a few minutes to connect with a translator.

If called on 911, calls can be traced. Call takers are being trained to be able to say one line in Spanish -- “please hold for an interpreter”.

## **Billboards & Bus Shelter Agreement with ClearChannel**

### **Billboards:**

- One removed in May 2005 – Georgia Avenue.
- Two to be removed by May 2006 – ClearChannel can determine the locations.
- All remaining billboards to be removed by May 2007.

### **Bus Shelters**

- 400 with advertising.
- 100 without advertising.
- 125 by May 2005
- 275 by May 2006
- 500 by May 2007

### **Status**

- 120 completed
- Hoping for 200 by May 2006
- Installation is behind schedule due to a problem with parts from China – getting better
- New contractor hired in the fall
- Shelters are attractive and are being better maintained.

### **AFI**

Murray Hortwitz, Director and Chief Operating Officer of the American Film Institute, (AFI) reported the following:

- Created by the citizens of Montgomery County, Maryland, the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center is dedicated to artists, educators and audiences of the world. The AFI Silver will present the richness of American and world cinema, exploring all forms of the moving image in the digital era and seeing the screen itself as a source of literacy, learning and vision for the future.
- AFI is America's preeminent arts organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television, digital media and other forms of the moving image.
- The AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center effectively demonstrates how a combination of civic leadership, architectural vision and excellence in the arts can result in community economic development.
- The AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center examines this phenomenon by presenting an unprecedented variety of film and video programming, augmented by filmmaker interviews, panels, discussions, musical performances and other events that place the art on-screen in a broader cultural context, while amplifying its power to engage and affect an audience.
- AFI had a good calendar year in 2004 with 150,000 people that attending and for 2005 we have had 200,000 people.
- The Educational Screening Program provides the link between the school curriculum and the film, video and print materials the AFI can access. Teachers can bring their students to the

AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center to view films related to the curricula to inspire them to an active engagement with academic subject matter and learn critical viewing skills in the process. An experienced educator and AFI support staff work with teachers to select an appropriate film and create the lesson support materials such as readings, worksheets, speakers and teaching guides. Each screening is customized to the needs and objectives of the curricular connections.

Jon Lourie suggested that the RoundHouse Theatre be invited at another meeting to give an update of there organization and annual report.

### **ByLaws**

After discussion among the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board members it was decided to table the bylaw amendment discussion until the February meeting. Korey Hartwich asked if any board member had significant changes to please type them and bring copies to the next board meeting.

### **Civic Building Task Force**

Mitchell Warren stated that he would be sending out an e-mail as to when the next Civic Building Task Force meeting would be held.

### **Commercial and Economic Development, (CED) Committee**

Phil Olivetti and Jose Vazquez reported that:

**The CED and Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committees had a joint meeting on December 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Regional Center**

#### **Attendance**

SSCAB Members: Phil Olivetti and Jose Vazquez - Chairs, Korey Hartwich, Mark Woodard, Debbie Spielberg, Marilyn Seitz, Darien Unger, Cris Bambaugh, Gary Stith - SS Regional Director, Muriel Bowser - SS Regional Center, Harry Sanders, ACT & Woodside Civic, Dan Meijer, Marcie Stickle, Mary Reardon – SS Historical Society, Sgt. Tom Harmon – SS Police-Traffic Div., Rick Siebert - DPWT, David Chikvashvili, Rogers Stanley – DHCA, Evan Glass – resident, Julian Leidman - Bonanza Coin owner.

#### **Street Parking**

SSCAB requested a report of on street parking for the new meters along Georgia Ave. and Colesville Rd. Officials of Dept. of Public Works and Transportation and the Parking Lot District reviewed the status. Rick Siebert said that parking meters create revenue, slow speeding, and provide close parking for residents and customers. Colesville and Georgia Ave are main arteries and they never considered putting parking on these roads until SSCAB and the Chamber asked for them. Sgt Harmon said that this is a pilot program for 90 days. Traffic counts were done. They are reviewing the project. So far there is reduce pedestrian accidents related to the parking. Sgt Harmon also said that an issue is second lane delivery stops often cause congestion.

### **Action suggestions**

Remove parking on Wayne Avenue across from parking garage. Reduce the hours of parking to 9AM to 3PM on northbound lanes and study hours of parking on southbound lanes on Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue. Some suggestions were to stop parking on northbound lanes of Colesville and Ga. completely and reduce southbound to 10AM to 3:30PM. Dan Meijer suggested we try to synchronize traffic lights similar to DC section of Georgia Ave.

### **Actions**

Jose with Phil's input will write letter to Art Holmes, director of DPWT requesting above action items.

### **Parking Assessment Studies**

The DPWT routinely studies the current buildings, future plans, sector plans, land use plans, and current supply of both the public and private components of the parking needs. Currently, they have hired a contractor to assess current and future parking needs in the Parking Lot District (PLD), which is an area almost identical to the CBD. In addition to conducting standard parking assessments, this contractor has developed and will give to DPWT a computer model that will allow DPWT to update their parking assessments by adjusting the analysis as development plans change. For survey purposes, DPWT had the contractor conduct separate assessments within the PLD. The assessment of the Ripley and Fenton areas are completed, and the summary packets for those 2 areas were distributed and explained at meeting. The other areas will be completed in the next several months.

Rick Siebert also explained that parking stickers are sold but do not guarantee parking in a particular facility. Less than 25% of available parking spaces are sold as parking stickers. There are 8,000 long-term spaces (more than 3 hours less than 15 hours). There is concern about the capacity of the Cameron Street /Second Ave. parking garage. There is no more available land in that area. However 300 more spaces can be added with an additional floor. If an additional floor were added, there should be only minimal disruption to ongoing parking.

Dan Meijer was concerned that Churches are not required to contribute money to the Parking District. He was also concerned about church parking inundating a neighborhood and that type of parking was being included in the assessments. Debbie asked about parking for the future library/residential building. Plans are that residents will park in underground garage; library users will have few adjacent handicap spaces and the rest will park in Wayne Avenue Garage. Parking meters and garage machines will soon be equipped to take special "debit" type card; a credit card payment may be in future. The Wayne Ave. Parking garage "space available" counters are not working well in the evenings and weekends. Entrance into Wayne Ave garage is causing backup traffic on Wayne in both directions.

### **Action Suggestions**

Measures may be needed to encourage parking at the Spring Street/ Cameron St. garage. Dan Meijer requested that studies include the impact of Sunday Church parking especially in the south SS CBD area. We need to encourage County to build Purple Line to decrease use of cars. Debbie suggested the "space available" counters in the Wayne Ave. garage be turned off evenings and weekends.

### **Action Items**

The Committee(s) asked to be kept informed as the parking assessments continue.

Joint meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

### **Commercial Economic Development Committee meeting**

Phil convened a meeting of the CED committee to discuss our priorities for requests for County's operating budget. Suggestions are:

- Vango – additional hours in evenings and weekend
- Long Branch Neighborhood Task Force Recommendations – funds to implement
- Montgomery Hills - traffic pattern, streetscape and store façade renovations
- Montgomery Hills – maintenance funds
- Long Branch – maintenance funds
- Sligo Creek – invasive weed and creek clearing
- Small business support in the CBD be increased
- Bike path maintenance be improved

Mark requested that an ad hoc budget committee appointed by the SSCAB Chair several months in advance of the deadline review our priority list. Committee members favored this approach. Also the budget should be an agenda item at our annual retreats.

### **Infrastructure**

Phil Olivetti presented a draft letter from the Commercial Economic Development Committee, (CED) about the cumulative impact of the commercial and residential projects in progress as well as the proposed and other future planned construction specifically the capacity of existing public facilities and infrastructures such as roads, schools, sewers, parks and parking to support the ever-increasing development

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Woodard) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to send a letter as amended to Derick Berlage, Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board. (See informational material for finalized letter.

**Meeting adjourned at 10PM.**

*Summary by Marilyn Seitz and edited by Phil, Jose, Mark and Debbie.*

### **The Neighborhood Committee**

Alan Bowser reported that:

The Neighborhoods Committee meeting was held on December 19, 2005, 7:00 P.M. – Silver Spring Regional Center.

**Attending:** Anita Morrison, Martha Waddy, Charlotte Coffield, Jerry Yokoyama, Wayne Goldstein, Caren Madsen, Hans Reimer, Eric Hensal, Kathy Stevens, Lt. Lance Hatcher, Carol Richardson, Marilyn Piety, and Mel Tull.

**Community Policing** Lt. Lance Hatcher described community policing deployment as a county-wide philosophy of police work that allows and encourages officers to get out and meet people in those times between calls. It balances the need to patrol neighborhoods with pauses to meet and chat with residents and shopkeepers. Jerry Yokoyama requested statistics, a longitudinal study, on the effectiveness of community policing. There was discussion of garage detail funding and C-Safe (formerly Hot Spot) funding. Jerry Yokoyama asked for information about the number of police hours in Long Branch before and after the ‘Weed and Seed’ funding ended, together with the crime statistics before and after. In response to an inquiry about what types of resource problems the CAB could work on, the response was clearly “more officers.” Lt. Hatcher described Chief Manger’s initial request, when he was made Chief, for more officers, and the multi-year phase in of the increase that resulted. He described some of the ‘more with less’ mechanisms the police use, such as partnering with other agencies to resolve problems, and named DHCA/Code Enforcement, HOC, Parole and Probation; and described how each district assigns small groups such as Special Assignment Teams to handle identified problems.

**National Park Seminary Community Meeting** Caren Madsen reported on a meeting of the developer with people from surrounding neighborhoods before breaking ground. She reported that the community had questions about storm water management, the temporary closing of access to a trail, and that there were still unknowns about traffic and school impacts.

**Environmental.** Caren Madsen also reported that the County Council had adopted amendments to strengthen the Forest Conservation Law and increase the fines and penalties. Then she reported that Councilmember Nancy Floreen has introduced a bill to deal with drainage problems, in instances where the drainage path (water flow) is diverted across a property line. She announced that Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage will meet with the Friends of Sligo Creek at the Long Branch Community Center on February 15 regarding the development planning process and how it meshes with the protection of the environment.

**Homeland Security.** Anita Morrison and members of the Citizens Advisory Board explained the Board’s concerns about the committee’s letter of recommendations about homeland security that was presented at the December board meeting. There was discussion about the new letter and the issues. A number of suggestions were made and generally accepted.

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Salazar) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to send a letter to County Executive Douglas Duncan expressing the Boards thoughts regarding community outreach component of the County’s emergency preparedness efforts.

### **911 Emergency Call System**

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Grisby) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to send a letter to County Executive Duncan, requesting information about an incident involving the County’s 911 emergency call system.

**Budget Priorities.** Possible budget priorities listed on the meeting agenda and on a separate list of the 2005 priorities, were discussed and generally ratified and accepted. One addition was recommended – funding for implementation of the Long Branch Task Force recommendations.



**Long Branch Task Force Minority Report.** Carol Richardson and Marilyn Piety provided copies of the Minority Report that was prepared by members of the Long Branch Task Force. They explained that a number of important, basic, issues had not been explored and dealt with. They were concerned that the Task Force had ended and was being replaced with a Long Branch Advisory Committee which is only allowed to advise on the redevelopment project portion of the Task Force recommendations. They believe a comprehensive plan is needed for Long Branch, as the Planning Board and multiple studies have repeatedly called for since 1967. They listed several chronic issues: outdated zoning, aging multifamily housing, extreme concentration of low-income residents, ineffective code enforcement, and inadequate parking. They pointed out that Long Branch is more densely populated than Brooklyn or the Bronx, and requested that the Advisory Committee be allowed, or directed, to prepare a development plan for all of Long Branch, rather than be limited to the redevelopment of one large commercial block. Hans Reimer volunteered to work on this issue.

**Meeting Dates** The January and February meetings on the third Monday of the month would fall on holidays when County offices are closed. The committee agreed by consensus to move both meetings to the following Mondays, January 23 and February 27.

**Next meeting: January 23, 2006.**

**Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee**

Transportation/Pedestrian Safety and Commercial Economic Development (CED) held a joint meeting on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Regional Center.

**Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Operating Budget Priority Issues**

Debbie Speilberg presented the Board the compiled listing of priorities as follows

**Public safety** – continue to maintain high level of security in Downtown Silver Spring and surrounding neighborhoods. Emphasize public parking garages.

- Perception of high incidence of crime in CBD, Long Branch, Rosemary Hills requires continued law enforcement attention
  - Support adequate operations of new Long Branch police substation on Piney Branch Road. [this is in the works]
  - Support the Northwest Park/Oakview community programs and enhanced police protection using the Weed and Seed program
  - Support Increased Funding for after-school programs to counter youth violence (neighborhoods)
  - Support funding for additional Montgomery County police officers, especially Spanish-speaking officers (neighborhoods)
  - Increased funding for public education and outreach for emergency preparedness
  - Approve funds to support the establishment of a sobering center in the down County area
  - Increase resources for the County's 911 Emergency Call Center with special attention to better servicing Limited English Proficiency (LEPs).
- Continue support for public education programs for the panhandling problem and special services for the homeless in downtown Silver Spring

**Transportation/Pedestrian safety** – continue to maintain pedestrian safety as a high priority issue in Montgomery County

- Increase funding of pedestrian safety enhancements in the Long Branch/Langley Park area
- VanGo- additional hours on weekends and in evenings
- Move up the Facilities Plan for the Brookville Road/Linden Lane/Seminary Road/Second Avenue “Mixing Bowl” by one year to FY07.
- Continue expansion of red light cameras and countdown pedestrian crossing signals
- Review and consider upgrades for all non-signalized crosswalks in downtown
- The Board applauds your efforts and recommends continued push (1) to incorporate speed cameras in Montgomery County; (2) to improve pedestrian safety in Long Branch (3) for joining tri-jurisdictional effort to improve pedestrian safety in Crossroads area
- Increase efforts to make Silver Spring a bike friendly community
- Provide for more speed trailers to slow traffic and improve pedestrian and traffic safety
- Review and consider improvements to traffic patterns in Montgomery Hills
- Continue monitoring the recommendations of Downtown Silver Spring pedestrian and traffic study

**Community maintenance** – high density commercial areas need a higher level of maintenance

- Increase funding for maintenance of County facilities such as recreations centers, libraries, schools, and other public buildings.
- Continue funding for routine maintenance in Long Branch, as requested by Long Branch Task Force through DHCA
- Consider maintenance funding level for streetscape areas and other commercial areas with high public usage that need to be maintained at a higher level in Four Corners and Montgomery Hills
- Increase funding for tree maintenance
- Increase funding of programs to improve air quality in the Greater Silver Spring area
- Increase funding for programs to control invasive plants in local stream systems
- More resources to the County’s code enforcement staff
- More resources to Housing Opportunities Commission for low and moderate income housing

**Community redevelopment**

- The Board recognizes and is very grateful for the rapid pace of redevelopment, including the new commercial openings in Downtown Silver Spring this year, and for County initiatives such as:
  - Fenton Village streetscape and South Silver Spring Pedestrian Links
  - Support for the expansion of Montgomery College-Takoma Park campus
- We also thank you for your commitment to Long Branch revitalization, and for creating the Long Branch Task Force
  - Approve funds to implement Task Force recommendations
- Support a Facilities Plan for Streetscape Improvements in the Montgomery Hills PLD, including store façade renovations.

**Motion:** (Lourie, Hensal) after a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board members would create a list of 3 most important priorities in each category to be presented to Bruce Romer, Chief Administrative Officer but submit the entire list as indicated above.

Gary Stith stated that there would be a meeting on January 11 with all the Silver Spring Boards to discuss priorities and that the Budget Review with the CAO would be on January 23 at the EOB 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 8:30 p.m. (*See finalized list of priorities in the information section of this packet*).

### **Bylaws and Board Member Attendance**

Korey Hartwich reported the following:

Attendance written in Montgomery County Boards, Committees, and Commissions Policies and Procedures Manual.

Unless law provides another method, a member of a committee who misses more scheduled meetings or hearings than the allowed absences, or who misses 3 consecutive meetings, is automatically removed. Allowed absences are as follows:

Number of Meetings Held in One Year	Allowed Absences
1-4	1
5-8	2
9-12	3
13-16	4
17+	5

When a member is removed through absence, the presiding officer of the committee must promptly notify the County Executive and all members of the committee, including the member being removed

### **Bylaw Amendment Discussion**

After a discussion and instructions for further amendments from Board members that they want considered as amendments by the entire Board it was agreed by the Board to table the Bylaw Amendment discussion until their February meeting.

**Motion:** (Hartwich, Olivetti) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed after discussion to table the Bylaw amendment discussion and that it be placed on the February 2006 Agenda.

### **Budget Priorities:**

Gary Stith stated that members of other Silver Spring Boards and Committees will meet on January 11, in preparation of a meeting on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> with Bruce Romer, Chief Administrative Officer to present budget priorities and I did ask for input from Committee and Boards members. (*Refer to Budget Section for final reports of budget priorities from Silver*

***Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Urban District Advisory Board, Recreation Advisory Board and Transportation Management District Advisory Committee).***

We have a template already based on last year's testimony in your packet and there will also be a public hearing on the FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program before County Council on February 7, 8, and 9 and normally the Chair of the Board and/or Committee give testimony.

**Director Report**

Gary Stith reported:

- Cake Love opened in January.
- The Gallery Restaurant on East-West Highway has opened.
- Civic Building and Veterans Plaza –Design work has resumed. The County Executive has added \$5.26 million to the project in his recommended FY07-12 Capital Improvements Program.
- Arts on the Block is set to unveil the design of its first venture into the world of public art -- a permanent paint and mosaic piece along the pedestrian lanes of the Georgia Avenue- Blair Mill Road underpass. The design will be unveiled Monday, January 30th during a fundraiser hosted by Jackie's Restaurant and Lounge in Silver Spring.

***The meeting was adjourned.***